

# SWARCer NEWS

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## **ATTENDANCE**

No attendance was taken.

## **General Meeting**

**No minutes from  
the last meeting  
submitted**



## **Public Service Through Amateur Radio**

South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of our members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in the Amateur Radio Service.



**Club News  
and World  
(LOCAL)  
Events**

Hi everyone as the editor of the club newsletter I want everyone to know what to expect. I am hoping to have the newsletter out the first weekend after the club meeting. So if you have information you want included then I will need it that weekend. If you take part in a special event the write it up and submit it along with some pictures. We will be happy to include your articles. If you would like to write about something going on in the club (good or bad) we will be happy to include your article. Please remember this is your newsletter and your contributions are appreciated.

Send articles to

[Ka0gmy@bellsouth.net](mailto:Ka0gmy@bellsouth.net)



Club News  
and World  
(local) Events

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **President**

Jason Upchurch – KM4PFV

#### **Vice President**

Brian Knox – KK4BK

#### **Secretary**

Nancy Butterfield – KM4KUT

#### **Treasurer**

Christy Fernandini - KJ4AEO

#### **Member-At-Large**

Steve Mowels – KA0GMV

#### **Member-At-Large**

Jim Young – K9RII

#### **Member-At-Large**

John Cook – N4RMV

#### **Membership Chair**

Ryan Avery , NC4RA

### **APPOINTED POSITIONS**

#### **Net Manager**

Nick Principe – W4NAP

#### **Special Events Director**

Gino Fernandini - KI4YXO

#### **Public Service Director**

Tim Ruffin W4TAR

Mike Ramsey KD4OKR

Chris Pickar K4CLP

## **Membership**

Ryan, NC4RA wants to remind everyone that dues are due. We ended last year with 124 members and we currently have 76 paid members. Don't forget to pay your dues or to just join the club. In joining the club a portion of your dues go to help support the repeater. Maintaining a repeater can be very expensive and the K4ITL repeater is no exception. So please if you use the repeater help support it.

## **NET REPORT**

I have updated the August net report with all missing nets except for NC4MP's Friday night nets.

Here is the revised report:

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AUGUST 2017

Net sessions: 27

Members participating: 38

Visitors participating: 99

Total checkins ("QNI") 589

Net control operators listing:

KT4JR	M	8
AJ4NX	M	5
KJ4CVK	M	4
KM4KUT	M	4
K9RII	M	3
KM4PFV	M	2

Top QNI listing:

25 KT4JR  
25 KN4OO (Guest)  
24 WA3JJG (Guest)  
22 KK4BVU (Guest)  
20 WB4UFO  
20 KK4QDZ  
19 KJ4CVK  
19 KI4RAN (Guest)  
18 NC4MP  
18 KM4QVG  
16 KI4WAI (Guest)  
13 KK4BK (Guest)  
12 KE4VNX  
11 KD4MC  
11 KG4JOK (Guest)  
10 WA4TCJ  
10 N4NCK (Guest)

Thank you to everyone for their cooperation! (or lack thereof, in one case)

Nick W4NAP

Hi, all –

Thanks to everyone who has sent in their August net reports. I am currently missing the following dates from this report:

Sunday: 8/6

Monday: 8/14, 8/21

Wednesday: 8/9

Friday: 8/4, 8/11, 8/18, 8/25

I will revise the August net report if additional net reports are received.

I apologize for the delay in getting this out... I blame my vacation... :-)  
Huge thanks to Julie who not only subbed for me while I was out but also took 8 nets this month!! Way to go, Julie!

Thanks!

**South Wake Amateur**  
**Radio Club Treasurer**  
**Report**

**August 2017**

**Club addition and**  
**reduction activity**

**Additions**

**Donation**                      **\$10.00**

**Meal**                              **121.00**

**Dues**                             **30.00**

**Dues**                             **5.00**

**Dues**                             **30.00**

**Dues**                             **30.00**

**Dues**                             **30.00**

**Dues**                             **35.00**

**Dues**                             **30.00**

**Dues**                             **30.00**

**Dues**                             **30.00**

**Dues**                             **35.00**

**Dues**                             **30.00**

**Dues**                             **30.00**

**Dues**                             **30.00**

**50/50**                              **43.50**

**TOTAL ADDITIONS**  
**\$549.50**

**Reductions**

**Meal cost**                      **\$62.37**

**TOTAL REDUCTIONS**  
**\$62.37**

**RBC Bank Account**  
**Activity**

**Balance as of**  
**08/07/2017**      **\$3257.20**

**Additions**                      **549.50**

**Reductions**                      **62.37**

**Balance as of**  
**10/02/2017**      **\$3744.33**

**THE SEPTEMBER  
MEETING HAS  
BEEN CANCELLED  
DUE TO SEVER  
WEATHER  
CONDITIONS**

**Next Meeting**

*The next meeting will be November 6, 2017. It will be held at American Legion Post #116 6400 Johnson Pond Rd Fuquay-Varina. Dinner will start at 6 pm. Meal will be Ham at a cost of \$5.00 per person. Be sure to sign up so we know how much food to prepare. We also ask you to bring a side dish. The program will be ARRL Teacher Training presented by Nancy, KM4KUT*

*Thank You*

**CQ World Wide SSB  
Event Inaugurates  
Fall Contest Season**

11/03/2017

The **CQ World Wide DX Contest** (SSB) kicked off the fall contest season this past weekend with plenty of activity from around the world.

As *The Daily DX* reported on October 30, some Top 10 operations from outside the US racked up claimed scores topping 30 million points. In the US, it appears that only two major multioperator/multi-transmitter high-power entries, K3LR and W3LPL, were active in this year's event, with Tim Duffy, K3LR, and his 15-member crew claiming another big US win in the MM HP category. Duffy's K3LR and Frank Donovan's W3LPL have sparred for high-score honors during many contests over the years.

K3LR has won every US multi-multi category in the CQ WW phone starting in 2005, Duffy told ARRL.

In earning 20.1+ million points at K3LR, 15 meters edged out 20 as the money band, with 40 meters only a few hundred contacts behind. K3LR managed 372 contacts in 21

zones on 10 meters. In all, K3LR logged 9,631 contacts in 174 zones (650 countries).

Donovan said W3LPL was handicapped this time around due to the fact that some of the regulars were not able to make it this year. The W3LPL gang posted a not-too-shabby score of 15.2 million points, with 20 meters being the most fertile territory there. W3LPL picked up 438 QSOs in 18 zones on 10 meters. The W3LPL team logged 7,686 contacts in 157 zones (606 countries)

"We had lots of fun at K3LR," Duffy said, "the very best part is being with good friends in the K3LR shack and talking to our radio friends all over the world. 48 hours of pure magic that never ever gets old. Duffy also congratulated the W3LPL operators, who, he said, "did well considering the challenging conditions and the operators that had to cancel at the last minute."

"It is great to have this close competition never knowing who will finish on top," Duffy added.

## New Digital Modes Changing Complexion of Bands and Perhaps of Ham Radio

11/02/2017

The wave of software-based digital modes over the past several years has altered the atmosphere of the HF bands. Some suggest the popularity of modes that make it possible to contact stations neither operator can even hear has resulted in fewer CW and SSB signals on bands like 6 meters and 160 meters. Traditional modes require far more interaction and effort on the part of the operator; the newer digital modes not so much. The recent advent of the still-beta “quick” FT8 mode, developed by Steve Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor, K1JT — the “F” and the “T” in the mode’s moniker — has brought this to a head. Some now wonder if FT8 marks the end of an era and the start of a new, more minimalist age.

“We’ve been as surprised as anyone about the rapid uptake of FT8 for making QSOs on the HF bands,” Taylor told ARRL this week. Rather than viewing FT8 as a total game-changer, he sees a dividing line between such digital modes and more traditional modes.

“SSB and CW are general-purpose modes,” Taylor asserted. “They are good for ragchewing, DXing, contesting, emergency communications, or whatever. FT8 and the other modes in **WSJT-X** are special-purpose modes. They are designed for making reliable, error-free contacts using very weak signals — in particular, signals that may be too weak for the more traditional modes to be usable, or even too weak to hear.”

Taylor notes that the information exchanged in most FT8, JT65, and other digital-mode contacts “is little more than the bare minimum for what’s considered to be a valid contact.” In addition to call signs and signal reports, stations may exchange grid squares and acknowledgments.

Radio amateurs recently commented in response to a Top Band Reflector post, in which Steve Ireland, VK6VZ, averred that because of FT8, “160-meter DXing has changed, perhaps forever” in recent weeks. Ireland said he downloaded FT8 but just couldn’t bring himself to use it on the air. “My heart isn’t in it,” he wrote. “My computer will be talking to someone else’s computer, and there will be no sense of either a particular person’s way of sending CW or the tone of their voice. The human in radio has somehow been lost.”

In his **blog**, Steve McDonald, VE7SL, compiled not only Ireland’s posts, but some responses to it, although not identified by name or call sign. One commenter suggested that the game-changing aspect of FT8 is that those who typically operate CW or SSB will gravitate to FT8. “The amount of activity on the FT8 frequency of any band is phenomenal,” the commenter observed. A few complained that no skill is involved in making contacts using computer-based digital modes.

Another suggested that FT8 is already falling victim to its own success, with too many stations crowding around the designated FT8 frequencies. Others were more philosophical, with remarks along the lines of this one: “It is allowing people who have smaller stations the opportunity to get on and use their radios and a computer to make contacts they never would have been able to make. This is great for ham radio!”

Taylor would agree. As he sees it, FT8 won’t replace modes such as CW or SSB. “Nevertheless, it’s clear that — at least in the short term — many hams enjoy making rapid-fire minimal QSOs with other hams, all over the world, using modest ham equipment,” he said. “For this purpose, FT8 shines.”



In a related “lightning talk” at the 2017 ARRL-TAPR Digital Communications Conference (DCC) earlier this year, ARRL Contributing Editor Ward Silver, N0AX, challenged his savvy audience to develop a keyboard-to-keyboard mode “between FT8 and PSK31” that would support casual and competitive operating, be more interference and noise tolerant, and be usable by those with “compromised” stations and antennas. He also challenged his listeners to develop a “smart” spectrum display that would identify signals by mode, so Amateur Radio could move away from the practice of setting aside specific frequencies for digital modes.

## HamSCI Workshop Aims to Foster Collaboration between Hams and Space Science/Weather Researchers

11/02/2017

**HamSCI** — the Amateur Radio citizen science initiative — has announced a 2-day **workshop** February 23-24 at New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) in Newark. HamSCI's Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, has posted a **survey** to gauge interest and potential attendance. “We are inviting all hams and scientists interested in ham radio science,” Frissell said. “This aim of this workshop is to foster collaborations between the ham radio and the space science and space weather research communities through presentations, discussions, and demonstrations. This year’s meeting will focus on solar eclipse analysis, ham radio data sources and databases, and the development of a ‘personal space weather station.’”

Frissell, an NJIT research professor, invited presentations from within the Amateur Radio community. “We will also accept submissions of abstracts and demonstrations of other topics that are of

interest to ham radio and ionospheric science,” he said. “The solar eclipse topic is a follow-on to this summer’s total solar eclipse and the Solar Eclipse QSO Party (SEQP). We hope to have presentations from both ham radio operators and professional scientists showing the data that they have collected and what they think it means. Presentations should be on any topic about how the ionosphere and/or radio propagation was affected by the eclipse.” The tentative schedule calls for oral presentations on “Ham Radio Data Sources, Databases Analysis” and “Solar Eclipse Effects on the Ionosphere, including results from the Solar Eclipse QSO Party.” Phil Erickson, W1PJE, of MIT’s Haystack Observatory is scheduled to be the Friday evening banquet speaker. Tutorials on Saturday will include “Ham Radio for Space Scientists,” with Frank Donovan, W3LPL, and “Space Science for Ham Radio Operators” (speaker pending).

“The ham radio data sources and databases session addresses an ongoing HamSCI topic,” Frissell told ARRL. “We will have presentations and discussions about the current methods that we use to collect data in ham radio, how it is stored, and how we can make it more scientifically useful, and



current analysis making use of these datasets.” Frissell said a huge amount of data is available right now, from such sources at the Reverse Beacon Network ([RBN](#)), [PSKReporter](#), and [WSPRNet](#). “However, this data is really designed for Amateur Radio use, and new techniques need to be developed to make it useful scientifically,” he added.

### ***The Personal Weather Station***

Frissell said HamSCI would like to encourage development of the personal space weather station concept. “This is analogous to a personal weather station that people install at their homes to measure temperature, wind speed, rain fall, humidity, etc, reporting this data to groups like the NWS, NOAA, and Weather Underground,” Frissell said. “We want to create a similar package for space weather and have that data go to a single repository.”

An ideal personal space weather station would likely include instruments able to detect things such as traveling ionospheric disturbances, radio blackouts, propagation changes, lightning, and magnetospheric activity, Frissell said. It would probably include, at a minimum, a wideband software defined radio, a magnetometer, a timing source, and a computer.

“All of these devices are currently available technology, but they are not available in a single, integrated package that is easy to purchase and deploy,” he said. At the February workshop, HamSCI wants to better define the capabilities of a personal space weather station as well as how to implement the concept. “HamSCI will be teaming up with [TAPR](#) to do this,” Frissell said. “Scientists will talk about what science topics the device should be able to measure, and TAPR will discuss how to actually design and implement the device.”

Frissell said he hopes hams attending will come away more knowledgeable about ionospheric and space science, and scientists will gain a better understanding of Amateur Radio. He anticipates that workshop, admission fees, and registration details will be finalized by December. He noted that NJIT is a 20-minute train ride from Newark Airport and less than 30 minutes from Manhattan.

## **Mellish Reef DXpedition Team Has Set Sail**

10/31/2017

The Mellish Reef [VK9MA](#) DXpedition team has said it plans to concentrate on the lower bands during its November

DXpedition. Mellish is the 29th most-wanted DXCC entity. Team member and ARRL Contest Update Editor Brian Moran, N9ADG, said the boat was loaded and set to depart Port Douglas, Australia, today (October 31).

“We are trying to get in front of some weather,” Moran told [The Daily DX](#) Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR. Moran said the DXpedition’s operating plans on its website are “always subject to revision by conditions and pilot guidance.” He urged those attempting to work VK9MA to listen first to get a feel for how the pileup is working. The team will ***always*** be running split; ***never*** call on the VK9MA transmit frequency. Data modes, and especially RTTY, will be one focus of the VK9MA DXpedition, and the team may give JT65/JT9 and the newly popular, but still beta, FT8 a try. During the 13-day stay, VK9MA will run four complete stations around the clock. — *Thanks to* [The Daily DX](#)